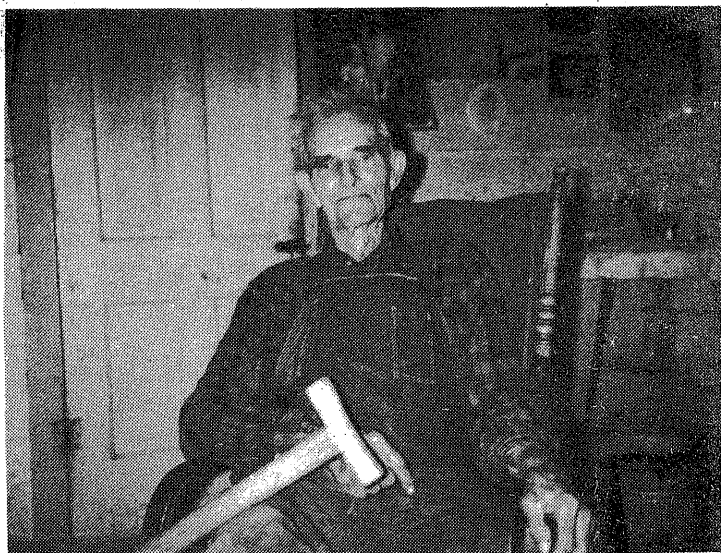




"UNCLE" E. L. PASS

E. L. Pass Celebrates

97th Birthday Recently

For our present day generation experiencing high unemployment, easy credit and good educations it is hard to believe that a man who will be 97 years old Feb. 13, 1974, has not owed any money for eighty years. only got through the fifth reader and finds plenty to do each hour of the day.

Born Feb. 13, 1877, Ephriam Laffayette Pass, the son of Robert Pass of Arkansas, he is known by many as Uncle Eaf or E. L. Born in Bell County near Bartlett, Tex., his parents moved to Copperas Cove, Tex., when he was three years old. He can remember when he was about five or six years old that the grade base was up for the Santa Fe railroad into Copperas Cove but it was some time before the steel rails were laid.

Starting to a country school at Crossville at six years of age he can recall a man by the name of Tom Poke riding his horse down the road by the school on way to his farm. About a year later this man was hung from a tree for stealing horses by vigilantes.

At the ripe old age of 46 he married Dovie Turner, age 14. They had three children who

are all still living but his wife passed away several years ago. His children are Mrs. Eddie Graham of Dallas; Leona Beechem of California and Sidney Pass of Abilene.

In 1895 E. L. and wife went to Williamson County and picked cotton all fall. Coming back home they liked \$13.00 having enough money to pay the Clements Gen. Store. The following year a little money was made and the \$13 debt paid and since that day he has always kept his finances where he wasn't in any strain.

In 1900 he moved his family to Nolan County and stayed 13 years on a 213 acre farm bought for \$13 an acre. He traded this place for one in Mills Co. on the Colorado River in order to have fire wood and a place to run cattle. Moving into Goldthwaite in 1919 to his place where he now lives, he used to say he was the lowest down feller on 4th St. But 4th St. was extended several years ago and more homes have gone up, so he doesn't hold the claim anymore.

A man of many talents with his word as his bond he has worked as a carpenter, broom maker, farmer and sawed fire wood for many years. Even today he hoes his year, carves wood butter paddles and makes walking canes and grind stones.

He is a God fearing man who regrets he is unable to attend church services as he used to but reads his Bible each day. He exercises each day with his many activities, but never lays down for a daytime nap. The Energy Shortage will never affect him very much as he can cook and heat by wood, gas, elec. or kerosene. He still lives alone, cooking all his meals. Breakfast is his main meal with 5 bisquits, syrup and coffee each morning, occasionally cooking on his wood cook stove instead of gas.

E. L. is one of the very few who have owned a Hudson Terraplane pickup, about a 1935 model purchased new for \$600.

His advice to having a good and long life is to work and exercise each day, be careful of what you eat (he gave up tobacco after several years after deciding it wasn't good for him), stay at home and minding his own business, love everybody and look for a better day tomorrow.